Scholarship presently being given to the college students in different States and Union Territories;

(b) if so, what are the details of the increase proposed by different State Governments to the Centre; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to implement the proposals of the State Governments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI); (a) No, Sir. The Government neither have a proposal nor have received any proposal from the State Governments/Union Territories to enhance the rate of National Scholarship being given to the college students in different States and Union Territories.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Converting minor ports into Major Ports

588. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to convert some minor ports into major ports;

(b) if so, whether Gopalpur minor port is one of them; and

(c) what are the details of other minor ports proposed to be converted into major port during the Seventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to convert any minor port *to* a major port during the 7th Five Year Plan.

Amount alloted *to* different States under operation blackboard

589. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what amount has been allocated to different States for implementing of operation blackboard scheme in 1988-89; and

(b) what are the details of different works undertaken in Orissa under operation blackboard scheme in 1987-88 and 1988-89?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) Funds released so far during 1988-89 in respect of the scheme of Operation Blackboard are as follows:

S. No.	Name of State	Amount in lakhs
1.	West Bengal	3«4.34
2.	Tamil Nadu	249.47
3.	Bihar	738.18*
4.	Karnataka	126.87*
		1498.86

*Funds released for continuing salary of teachers appointed during 1987-88 under the scheme.

(b) the release of grants to States depends on preparation of projects and proposals by the State Government. During 1987-88, an amount of Rs. 753.00 lakhs was released to Orissa for implementing the scheme in 7377 schools in 65 blocks and 15 municipal areas. The amount released included the salary for 2978 additional teachers and the cost of essential teaching learning equipment to the schools. Quarterly Progress Reports detailing the progress of implementation are awaited from the State Governments.

Foreign tour of President of India

590. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the countries visited by the President of India in recent weeks;

(b) whether any bilateral agreements were entered into between India and those countries on the occasion of the President's visit; and

(c) if so. what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K. K. TEWARI): (a) The President visited The Netherlands, Finland, Cyprus and Czechoslovakia in September 1988 and Bhutan in October, 1988.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

उत्तर प्रदेश के "गंगोली हाट" कस्बे में "पाताल भुवनेश्वर गुफा" को पर्यटन नक्शे पर लाया जाना

591. **श्री सोहन लाल धूसिया:** क्या नागर विमानन और पर्यटन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या उत्तर प्रदेश के पिथौरागढ़ जिले के गंगोली हाट कस्बे के निकट अपूर्व और अद्वितीय छटा वाली पाताल भुवनेश्वर गुफा को पर्यटन विभाग के पर्यटन नक्शे पर ले आया गया है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार ने पर्यटकों को सुविधा के लिए उपरोक्त भुवनेश्वर गांव को पक्की सड़क से जोड़ने के लिए, जोकि गांव से 9 किलोमीटर दूर है, अब तक क्या कार्यवाही की है ?

नागर विमानन और पर्यटन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री शिवराज पाटिल): (क) और (ख) राज्य सरकार से विशिष्ट प्रस्ताव प्राप्त होने पर केन्द्रीय पर्यटन विभाग कुछ चुने हुए स्थानों को पर्यटक केन्द्रों के रूप में विकसित करने का कार्य करता है। उत्तर प्रदेश में गंगोली हाट टाउन की पाताल भुवनेश्वर गुफा की आधार संरचना के विकास का कोई प्रस्ताव राज्य सरकार से प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है।

Compensation to the victims of Railway accidents

592. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI; Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer 10 Unstarred Question 96 given in Rajya Sabha on 2nd November, 1988 and state:

(a) what is the amount of money paid as compensation to the heirs of the killed and the injured; and

(b) to what extent negligence on the part of the railway staff was responsible for these accidents and to what extent the sabotage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) A statement is attached. *(See* below)

(b) Two of the major train accidents during the period April-September '88, involving casualties were at unmanned level crossings for which the road users were responsible. The remaining two accidents which were inquired into by the Commissioners of Railway Safety, were due to failure of railway staff.

Statement

The amount of compensation paid by the Railways for major accidents which occurred on Indian Railways during the period April—September, 1988 as per details below:—

Accidents	Compensation paid
1	2
1. Collision between 323 Down Siddheswar Express and 101 Down Minai' Express near By-cula station of Central Railway on 4-7-88	No compensation has been paid so far as the amount of compensation will be decided by the *ex officio* Claims Commissioner, Civil Judge. Thane on the merits of the applications received by him.